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PP RUEHMR
DE RUEHSB #0583 1371655
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P 171655Z MAY 06
FM AMEMBASSY HARARE
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0031
INFO RUCNSAD/SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY
RUEHUJA/AMEMBASSY ABUJA 1209
RUEHAR/AMEMBASSY ACCRA 1045
RUEHDS/AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA 1212
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 0473
RUEHDK/AMEMBASSY DAKAR 0839
RUEHKM/AMEMBASSY KAMPALA 1266
RUEHNR/AMEMBASSY NAIROBI 3629
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 1038
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME 1672
RUEKDIA/DIA WASHDC//DHO-7//
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS
RUEKJCS/Joint STAFF WASHDC
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 1424
RUCPDOC/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC
RUFOADA/JAC MOLESWORTH RAF MOLESWORTH UK//DOOC/ECMO/CC/DAO/DOB/DOI//
RUEPGBA/CDR USEUCOM INTEL VAIHINGEN GE//ECJ23-CH/ECJ5M//

C O N F I D E N T I A L HARARE 000583

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AF/S FOR B. NEULING
NSC FOR SENIOR AFRICA DIRECTOR C. COURVILLE
AFR/SA FOR E. LOKEN
COMMERCE FOR BECKY ERKUL

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/31/2011
TAGS: PGOV PREL PHUM ASEC ZI
SUBJECT: "OPERATION ROUND-UP" SO FAR LARGEMLY ILLUSORY

Classified By: Charge d'Affaires, a.i., Eric T. Schultz under Section 1
.4 b/d

¶1. (U) The GOZ-controlled Herald daily reported in a front-page story on May 15 that Harare police last week had picked up 10,000 "squatters, vagrants and street youths" for relocation to rural areas after "screening." According to the article, the exercise was part of "Operation Round-Up", an anti-crime program launched by police on April 12.

¶2. (SBU) International Organization for Migration Chief of Mission Mohammed Abdiker told poloff that IOM had confirmed the presence of 100 detainees at Melfort Farm (about 40 km east of Harare). According to Abdiker, the detainees were homeless victims of last year's Operation Restore Order picked up three weeks ago from the streets of Epworth, a high density Harare suburb. He added that 30 more detainees picked up much more recently were being held in Harare's central police station. He said that detainees in both locations were receiving one meal per day and added that IOM had not confirmed a report that three detainees had died from hunger. He added that homeless people were being arrested in unspecified numbers in the Harare suburbs of Mbare, Hatcliffe and Epworth, and there was an unconfirmed report of an additional camp for detainees near Mazowe.

¶3. (SBU) Representatives from UNICEF, Human Rights NGO Forum, Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights, and Streets Ahead (an NGO that advocates for the homeless) told us they knew nothing of the operation beyond what had been reported in the Herald. The Embassy's police contacts also know nothing of the exercise.

¶4. (C) COMMENT: The authorities have long made periodic efforts to "clear" the streets of street children and other "undesirables." This latest report coincides with the first anniversary of "Operation Restore Order", the GOZ's urban

demolition campaign that deprived an estimated 700,000 of their homes and/or livelihoods last year, and which some GOZ officials have referred to as &unfinished business.⁸ While the initial reports appear to exaggerate the exercise's magnitude, Post will track this issue closely and alert Washington to any further developments.

SCHULTZ